



## Farmers Exchange

Box 296—'Phone 92



MOUNDS, ILLINOIS

December 19, 1945

Mr. Abe Manley  
71 Crawford Street  
Newark, N. J.

Dear Mr. Manley: Just a letter of information as to the outlook for this coming baseball season.

I have talked with several of the returning service men and have decided to enter baseball again in 1946. I have most of my former players including Dan Wilson, Gene Smith, Eldridge Mayweather, John Hayes, Bradford Bennett, and others.

I have just returned from an extensive trip around the west coast and from several players whom I contacted I am of the opinion that quite a bit is going on that Negro major league owners have overlooked.

I have been questioned about joining the Negro American League, but I have decided to either join the United States League or play independent baseball.

My secretary, Jackson, mentioned that you wanted the services of Eugene Smith and that Pompey also wanted him. If I find that I shall be unable to carry out my present plans for baseball I shall send all of my players to you and Alex Pompey; for I believe you two represent the best that we have in Negro baseball.

Write me soon as possible and inform me the outlook on the baseball front.

I tried to phone you Tuesday night, but the operator would not give us your number.

Best wishes for success,

*Allen Johnson*  
Allen Johnson

"In Southern Illinois . . . Garden Spot of The World . . . Wholesale, Retail Trading"